



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/916,966	07/27/2001	Roger C. Williams	BIW-EV	9328
7590	03/17/2004		EXAMINER	
Risto A. Rinner, Jr. Suite A 2169 East Francisco Blvd. San Rafael, CA 94901			NGUYEN, SON V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/916,966	WILLIAMS, ROGER C.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Son V Nguyen	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 March 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

Art Unit: 2839

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 11/28/2003 is acknowledged. It consists of the minor changes to claims 1-20, and the remarks related to the claims. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Fukushima et al. (US 5,751,135) and O'Dea (US 5,242,315).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims 17-32. Therefore, all the means in claims 9, 11-13, 16-17 and 19, and the **must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s)**. No new matter should be entered.

Applicant is required to furnish drawings to facilitate understanding of all the means described above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

Art Unit: 2839

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukushima et al. (US 5,751,135).

The claimed invention reads on Fukushima et al. as follows:

Fukushima et al. discloses a charging connector [B, figure 1]for an electric vehicle, comprising:

- a connector plug having a body having a body [23], the body having a first end and an opposite second end;
- means [29] for attaching an electrical cable at the first end of the body, the electrical cable including a plurality of electrical conductors therein [figure 6];
- means [22] for providing a plurality of sockets at the second end of the body, at least two of said plurality of sockets [32, 34] adapted for recharging a battery of the electric vehicle;
- means for providing at least one cavity in the body [figure 6];
- the cavity receiving a module, wherein the module is a switch [48, 49, 50];
- the cavity receiving a module, wherein the module is an indicator light [53];
- the cavity receiving a module, wherein the module is a blank [46a]; and

Art Unit: 2839

- a receptacle [A] having a plurality of pins, and at least one of the pins is longer than the other pins [figure 2].

All the elements recited in the claims are read in the reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 9-10 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima et al.

Fukushima et al. discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for the connector including means this ... means that such as means for monitoring a parameter in the vehicle, monitoring and determining temperature of the connector, etc... However, the instant invention does not describe any structures of means, or give any reasons or specific problems to be solved by having means for monitoring a parameter in the vehicle, monitoring and determining temperature of the connector. Therefore having means for monitoring a parameter in the vehicle, monitoring and determining temperature of the connector is a common knowledge and obvious choice if the temperature of the connector is needed to monitor.

Art Unit: 2839

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima et al. in view of O'Dea (US 5,242,315).

Fukushima et al. discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for the means for determining temperature is a thermocouple.

O'Dea discloses a thermocouple in used in an electrical connector [figure 2].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the connector of Fukushima et al. to provide the thermocouple as taught by O'Dea in order to facilitate determination of the temperature, as is well known in the art of the electrical connector.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son V Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2097. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be

Art Unit: 2839

obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



sn

March 8, 2004

SON V. NGUYEN
PATENT EXAMINER